Unemployed cry 'no jobs, revolution!'

I would like to turn over my column this issue to my colleague Felix Martin, an unemployed auto worker and co-editor of News & Letters. — Charles Denby.

* On Dec. 28 Bethlehem Steel announced that it will permanently lay off 10,000 more workers and sharply curtail operation at its Lackawanna, N.Y. and Johnstown, Pa., plants, thus reducing its steelmaking capacity by another 15 percent. The U.S. steel industry is estimated to be operating at 29 percent of capacity, the lowest since the Great Depression.

* The United Auto Workers Union contract, voted on and accepted by Chrysler workers in America and in Canada, was a victory for the workers. The Canadian workers went out on strike and they won what the union leadership wasn't even going to bargain for.

* At one unemployment office in California some unemployed workers were passing out a leaflet they had written called "Unemployment Lines." Workers in the unemployment line began to chant, "No jobs, revolution!" Others who were reading the leaflet in their cars were somewhat taken aback by the boldness of the workers.

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BANKRUPTCY OF UNION LEADERS

These three incidents tell much about what is happening to the economy and the labor movement in this country. Never before in the history of the UAW has the leadership showed itself to be as much the enemy of the workers as it is management. When has the rejection of the union leadership's proposals not meant a strike? It didn't in the UAW after the October rejection because the so-called leadership took lots of time put to spread fear among the workers that the company would close down altogether if the workers went on strike. And the leadership didn't even want to open negotiations for two more months. It was only the daring of the Canadian workers which transformed the situation.

(Continued on Page 10)

Guatemala: the struggle continues

Editor's Note: The Reagan Administration has just announced the decision to supply helicopter parts to the Guatemalan armed forces, claiming improvements in the human rights situation. It is a prelude to a decision to resume full military aid to the government of Rios Montt. Below we print an interview with Nicolas Balam, a Guatemalan active in opposition to the military rulers.

My name is Nicolas Balam, I am an indigenous peasant of the Cakchiquel people, from the municipality of San Martin Jilotepeque in the province of Chimaltenango, Guatemala. I am a member of the Peasant Committee of Altiplano.

Our committee is a mass organization, the vast majority of whose members are indigenous peasants of the Altiplano, that part of western Guatemala where most of the agricultural laborers are and where the small plots of land are really unfit for cultivation.

PEASANT COMMITTEE OF ALTIPLANO

This organization arose as a result of the government repression, and it reflects the popular organizations that previously existed, such as peasant leagues, cooperatives, associations of small farmers, village improvement committees, as well as the groups of catechists. The repression came down hard on the leaders, and organizing in the open became impossible, but the consciousness and education remained with the masses of peasants, and so the form of working changed. The Committee was organized precisely because the army's offensive of November and December, 1981 prevented us from even reaping our crops or leaving to find work elsewhere. So at first we did not even know the form it would take, only that we had to transform the situation.

(Continued on Page 4)

Two States of the Union

Reagan militarizes economy; masses fight the new Depression

by Andy Phillips

In Detroit, Mich., Mayor Coleman Young declares a "hunger emergency" and makes a national plea for food to feed thousands of starving unemployed residents and their families. Former Michigan Governor William Milliken also pleads for assistance to feed the hungry throughout the state, economically battered by a nearly 18 percent "official" unemployment rate, the highest in the nation. In Pontiac, Mich., with over 27 percent unemployment, people line up for miles in cars at four in the morning to get one loaf of bread, 20 pounds of potatoes and five pounds of beans.

In Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, which includes the steel-depressed Pittsburgh area, Sheriff Coo makes a last ditch effort to save 42 homes by removing them from the bank foreclosure rolls just before they are to go on the auction block in January.

In Springfield, Colo., hundreds of farmers, including many from surrounding states, rally to try to stop foreclosure on a farmer's land — and are maced and tear-gassed by the state sheriff and his deputies.

In Houston, Tex., an unemployed engineer who left the Midwest seeking work but is unable to find any, kills himself, his wife and children — swelling the number of

(Continued on Page 9)

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Laborers stop GM construction ... page 3

Coming next month: SPECIAL MARX CENTENARY ISSUE

Including these features:

• Marxist-Humanism, 1983: the Summation that Is a New Beginning
  — by Raya Dunayevskaya

• A 1980s View: Marx, Labor and Marx's Humanism
  — a discussion by Charles Denby and Felix Martin, editors of News & Letters

• The Unknown Ethnological Notebooks of Marx
  A century after their creation; a decade after their publication — by Michael Connolly

• The development of Marx's view of the Black dimension
  — by Lou Turner
London, England — On Dec. 12, 40,000 women from all over Britain, Europe, Asia and America descended on Greenham Common Airbase, about 60 miles north of London, where the silos are being built to house “first strike” Cruise missiles and black-draped photographs of family members massacred in the raids on the Shahla and Sabra refugee camps, to the site of the largest military base in Western Europe. The huge Greenham Base, with a wall 15 ft. high, and the Chinese troops surrounded the marchers, but there were no clashes. (Information from Womansnews)

Thousands of women demonstrating in Paris were participants in a successful campaign by French feminists to force the Socialist government to pay 70 percent of the cost of an abortion. Reacting to the women's movements' actions, the rightists point out, however, that very poor women, women under 18, most immigrants and women past the tenth week are not helped by the most important decision.

In Dakar, Senegal, women attending a six-day seminar sponsored by the Association of African Women for Research and Development published a declaration which takes up a wide range of women's issues, stating: “Social progress means not only the improvement of situation of women but changing it... by opposing all ideologies that define women's role as subordinate, dependent, or passive.” In December, the Committee Against Sexual Attitudes held a conference which defined “sexual abuse” as everything from illiteracy to intolerable working conditions. Members of this committee include both African and European women. (Information from Off Our Backs)

The Supreme Court on Jan. 10 agreed to consider reinstating the $10 million damage award to the estate of Karen Silkwood, labor activist who suffered radiation contamination while working at a Union Carbide plant. The damages, awarded by a state court to punishing Kerr-McGee, had been nullified by a federal appeals court. Morgan continues: “So long as Man is equal to human but Woman is non-Man (and therefore nonhuman) how can we possibly imagine anything so comparatively simple as mere freedom? As ultimate task as imaging freedom would require, after all, every cell of sentient energy available to all of us that species has not been permitted to approach the task.”

When I heard Morgan speak on The Anatomy of Freedom, she read as well from her poetry collection Death of a Friend, an essay-poem. It is a friend's poem. “To a friend,” she read. For she opened her heart and mind to the world as she was on her way to give evidence of health and safety violations to a New York Times reporter and a union leader.

Feminist movements reflect challenges for 1980s
civil rights and anti-war movements which said “Goodbye to All That” sexism, and set on uncharted courses, to form a new political revolution.

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Detroit laborers shut down GM plant site

Detroit, Mich. — On one side stand construction laborers from predominantly Black Detroit Local 334. Carloads of white workers from surrounding suburbs, carrying construction material stand on the other side, all refusing to cross the informational picket line. One supervisor after another storms up to the picket line, trying to know who the leader is. Detroit police frantically signal to the large traffic jam to break the picket line. No crosses.

From across the street a crowd of ironworkers and pipefitters call out, "What you're doing is legal. Let us in."

That was the scene of the dramatic confrontation which took place for two hours at the main entrance to the construction site of the General Motors Poletown plant (one of the largest construction projects in the U.S.) as construction was delayed on the morning of January 7. Rank-and-file workers from construction laborers Local 334 had set up what was only to be an informational picket line because it instantly turned into an act of worker solidarity, in a city with one of the highest rates of unemployment in the nation. The laborers had come to focus attention on the fact that the construction manager of the Poletown project, Barton Malow, was allowed by the Mayor, the City Council and their own union leadership to contract work out to sub-contractors who refuse to use Detroit laborers and instead bring in out-of-state laborers, many of them non-union.

FULL UNEMPLOYMENT

The rank-and-file picket line had started the day before as a picket line in front of Detroit laborers Local 334 for their striking hall for construction covering southeast Michigan. Yet, with 80 percent unemployment in the union, construction companies that haven't brought jobs, and drastic cutbacks in benefits, as one laborer put it, "to say that union leadership is ineffective is to put it mildly.

Some of the single-minded members went on to explain: "The membership had to take matters into their own hands. Construction is going on all over the city. There are about 200 buildings going up. They are building Poletown without us. The work force over there is predominantly white in a predominantly Black city.

"Poletown is federally funded under an Urban Development Grant. So who gave the contract to Barton Malow to lay off the workers? The manager bids lower to get the contract from the city because the company doesn't want to pay the bills. That's the reason why they are building Poletown without us. The work force over there is predominantly white in a predominantly Black city.

"We have to do something. We have to stand up to these companies that won't hire us. They don't want to hire us. They are about to build a housing project there. They want to have everything there. They don't want any unemployment there. They don't want us there. We can feed ourselves."

During the confrontation with management and the Detroit police on the first day there were a number of referenda workers from Local 334 involved in the Poletown movement. Worker solidarity has been the most significant development to come out of the Poletown struggle. It is that kind of solidarity with others in Detroit that the rank-and-file laborers movement will need in the coming weeks as they carry their protest to City Hall.

That struggle was already foreshadowed in one of the picket signs a worker made which read: "Mr. Mayor you are here at Local 334 July 1982. We know that you're aware of what's happening to Local 334 at Poletown. We need jobs!!"

Lou Turner and Jim Mills

Foremen fear ideas of workers at Agar

Chicago, Ill. — One frustrating day at Agar a worker burst out, "I know how to do my job. I don't need someone coming up behind me every five minutes telling me, 'Do that! Do that!' . . . What I don't like is the way they call workers 'Do this! Do that!'..."

The foremen stand behind us yelling at us to move, they won't do the work here they'll never appreciate you. One of these workers has been here 24 years and he has two years. The company considers those two years more valuable more than all the time they have worked.

There is a similarity between this kind of treatment from management, departments and shifts and oftentimes without concern about how it affects our health, our families or our lives. One foreman said to another, "You have to tell them everything" -- as though we were children. Some of us work hand to mouth, but we still have our heads above water.

The foremen stand behind us yelling to us to move faster. If we try to tell them that something is wrong or that a job could be done better, they argue with us or just walk away, or try to punish us for insubordination. If you stop in passing to say "good morning," the foreman rushes up: "What's going on here?"

We all experience this treatment and complain to one another without results. The Agar management is really only interested in one thing: profit. The foremen fear ideas and new ideas underneath us. We want to be treated with respect, and we need to have ideas beyond complaining and do something about it. -- Agar workers

Food stamps mean forced labor under Reagan

Chicago, Ill. — Over the next nine months, the CETA training program will be replaced by Reagan's Job Training Partnership Act program. Trainees will no longer be able to receive food stamps...
New York, N.Y. — Reagan's no-longer-secret war against revolutionary Nicaragua is being met by the increasing organization of the Nicaraguan people and their supporters abroad. Women are in the forefront of many efforts, at the same time as the proposals of the Sandinista women's association, AMNLAE, are producing much discussion about women's liberation in Nicaragua.

Counter-revolutionary soldiers, now located on both sides of the Honduran border with Nicaragua, have been attacking small towns, killing, kidnapping and terrorizing people. At a meeting sponsored by Casa Nicaragua here in December, Dr. Myrna Cunningham told of her Service in northern Nicaragua.

Twenty armed men attacked her group and beat them; she and a nurse were taken to a camp in Honduras where they were raped and held over night. The men said they received the arms and supplies from the U.S. Dr. Cunningham and others are suing the U.S. government over the CIA operations, in an action brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights.

The meeting was called to begin a U.S. branch of the World Peace Waterfront Front Against Intervention in Nicaragua and Central America, established recently in Mexico by women from throughout the Americas.

Magda Enriquez of the National Executive Board of AMNLAE brought greetings to the meeting:

"In the three years of revolution, we must start by saying that women have not solved all the problems of women's rights. There is still discrimination in getting jobs and doing double duties. What is important is that now we have a real opportunity to solve these problems. We could accomplish as much as we did in the past three years because women learned, through the revolutionary process, that they can get out of their homes and do something to change their lives. They got over their fears and learned that they are good not only on the battlefield but in national and international work.

At the same time, the Nicaraguan people learned that women are the equals of men. Women are now government directors of major areas of the country and make up 48 percent of government officials. To struggle for women's liberation was both a political decision and the women's decision."

Enriquez described many of the changes that have occurred and those being discussed, such as the national debate over AMNLAE's proposals for a new Family Code. The Law on Support now under the discussion would require men to support their needy divorced wives and children, children to support aged parents, and women who are handicapped. It is controversial because it requires that domestic work be considered a contribution to the household when assessing men and women's support.

This touched off an ideological debate on women's liberation in the government newspaper, Barricada, and AMNLAE's new monthly magazine, Somos.

Enriquez also described how the U.S. counter-revolutionary attacks on the economic front affect women. Because of the U.S. boycott, machinery cannot be maintained so that factories are closing and unemployment increasing. When Sandino Fruit recently closed, 400 women were put out of work. Half were heads of families.

She urged women to underscore the importance of support work in the U.S., and concluded, "It was easier to fight the dictatorship than it is to rebuild the country."

Guatemalan struggle

(Continued from Page 1)

organize to denounce the repression and for solidarity. Our principal objectives are: to organize the peasants not only in defense of our agrarian rights, but in defense of our nation in our country; to join our peasant force with the great mass of workers, since we are the two forces that create the country's economic production, and in this way to help maintain national sovereignty of our country.

Through every culture also has its weak aspects. We believe that our indigenous culture had many positive aspects. It is a culture of organization, its unity, its agricultural traditions, and its expression of the possibility of democracy since the rank-and-file is fundamental. Our basic demands at this time are for the struggle for the land and water, and organizational survival, for the expression of the peasantry; for freedom of travel; for an end to the repression and the immediate withdrawal of the army from our territory; and for the independence and sovereignty of our country.

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SOCIETY

We work through various committees such as self-defense, supplies (food and medicine), popular education and communication committees. For example the entire village participates and uses their creativity in the self-defense committees. There are groups for the defense of land, for delaying the army, for communication and for evacuation of the masses and to help us fight for the achievement of a free agrarian expression of the peasantry; for freedom of travel; for an end to the repression and the immediate withdrawal of the army from our territory; and for the independence and sovereignty of our country.

We also make body traps with sharpened stakes, so that when the army comes shooting and chasing the people they won't dare follow into the forest. Some say we copied this from the Vietnamese, but that's not so. Right in the Popol Vuh, the sacred text of the Maya, are written the different ways of our ancestors for going out of Chaparral, the house of hell. And our grandfathers used those traps to hunt deer and raccoon. It is this same unselfish, peasant people, who are the great majority (not forgetting our Ladino brothers), who must search for a new society, one where human life is respected, where there is an end to the exploitation of man by man, where there is a real freedom, real democracy, where we can all express ourselves, and where we all have rights as well as obligations.

We believe that our indigenous culture had many positive aspects. Though every culture also has its weaknesses, we must use all of our capabilities to bring about a new society for the good of humanity.

The positive aspects of indigenous culture are its form of organization, its unity, its agricultural traditions, and its science. Our Maya priests, who were contemporaneously called 'sorcerers,' had to use their knowledge of medicine and magic as a part of their culture. The indigenous form of agricultural work was communal until 1971, when with the supposed revolution they started to divide up our lands, leaving only a piece of communal land in each hamlet. But among the families this tradition was never forgotten. Even now at planting time one family plows, another family plants, and when they're finished they pass on to help another. We call this Cuchubel. Work for pay is practically unknown among indigenous peoples.

THE ARMY OF RIOS MONTT

They have tried many ways to undo this type of organization. But the repression, far from destroying it, has made us go back to it more. Now the army of Rios Montt is building strong hamelets under the name of "model villages," trying to end our whole way of working the land and our traditions.

The army is now exterminating especially the indigenous peasantry, because the large landowners of the south, the United Fruit Company, has interest in our infertile lands because of the discovery of oil and nickel. The army is also trying to reduce their numbers. There are many efforts, at the same time as the proposals of the Sandinista women's association, AMNLAE, are producing much discussion about women's liberation in Nicaragua.

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First English translation of Rosa Luxemburg’s 'Martinique'

Editor’s Note: This January marks the sixty-fourth anniversary of Rosa Luxemburg’s brutal murder in the midst of a 1919 German Revolution. "Martinique" was written shortly after a volcanic eruption occurred at the port of St. Pierre in May, 1902. It was originally published in Neuer Volkszeitung on May 15, 1902. It has been translated into English for the first time by David Wolff, translator of Luxemburg’s "Theory and Practice."

Mountains of smoking red lava heaps of tangled corpses, a steaming smoking sea of fire where ever you turn, mud and ashes — the earth remains of the flourishing little city that perched on the rocky slope of the volcano like a fluttering swan. That same day — at some time the angry giant began to rumble and rage against his misfortune, the concealment of the two-legged threat-great-hearted even in his wrath, a truth-seeker, who warned the reckless creat­ures. And there, the old cathedral crawled at his feet, burned, stoned, spattered with fire, and smokin­g sea of mud, the workers, like a hurricane, burst into the water, their dead in their cold arms, their weeping voices drowned in the stream of the world's grief, the deluge of the human race.

On the 7th, the commission dispatched by the government announced to the anxious people of St. Pierre that all was well in their heaven and on earth. All is in order, no cause for alarm — as they said on the eve of the Oath of Rouen. In the dance-intoxicated halls of Louis XVI, while in the crater of the revolutionary volcano fiery lava was gathering for the fearful eruption. All is in order, peace and quiet everywhere! — as they said in Vie­nna and Berlin on the eve of the March eruption 50 years ago. The old, long-suffering titan of Martinique paid no heed to the reports of the government; the Governor and the Commission, the people, houses, streets and ships under the fiery exhalation of his indignant heart.

THE WORK was radically thorough. Forty thousand human lives mowed down, a handful of trembling refugees rescued — the old giant can rumble and bubble in peace. For he has shown his might, he has fearfully avenged the slight to his primordial will.

And now in the ruins of the annihilated city on Martinique a great moment arrives, unknown, never seen before — the human being. Not lords and bondmen, not Blacks and whites, rich and poor, not plantation owners and wage slaves — human beings have appeared on the tiny shuttered island, human beings who feel only the pain and see only the sufferer, who only want to help and succeed. Old Mt. Pelee has worked a miracle! Forgotten are the days of Fashoda, forgotten the conflict over Cuba, forgotten "Island Racism" — the French and the English, the Tsar and the Senate of Washington, Germany and Holland donate money, send telegrams, extend the helping hand. A brotherhood of peoples against nature’s burning hatred, a resurrection of humanism on the ruins of human culture. The price of recalling their humanity was high, but thundering Mt. Pelee had a voice to catch their ears.

France donated 10,000,000 francs, and the whole world hastens to dry the tears of the mourning Mother Republic. But how was it then, centuries ago, when the French and the English, the Tsar and the Senate of Washington, Germany and Holland donated money, sent telegrams, extended the helping hand. A brotherhood of peoples against nature’s burning hatred, a resurrection of humanism on the ruins of human culture. The price of recalling their humanity was high, but the whole world hastens to dry the tears of the mourning Mother Republic. But how was it then, centuries ago, when the French and the English, the Tsar and the Senate of Washington, Germany and Holland donated money, sent telegrams, extended the helping hand. A brotherhood of peoples against nature’s burning hatred, a resurrection of humanism on the ruins of human culture. The price of recalling their humanity was high, but

VENERABLE TODAY — far off in the African south, where in a few years ago a tremendous upheaval of human life occurred, by their labor and in peace, there we saw how the English wake havoc, these same Englishmen who in Martinique against the children and their parents: there we saw them stamp on human bodies, on children’s corpses with brutal soldiers’ boots, in memory of death and misery before and behind them. Ah, and the Russians, the rescuing, helping, weeping Tsar of All the Russians — an old acquaintance! We have seen you on the ramparts of Praga, where warm Polish blood flowed in streams and turned the sky red with its thunder: a volcano that is seething and boiling, whether you turn, mud and ashes — the earth remains of the flourishing little city that perched on the rocky slope of the volcano like a fluttering swan. That same day — at some time the angry giant began to rumble and rage against his misfortune, the concealment of the two-legged threat-great-hearted even in his wrath, a truth-seeker, who warned the reckless creatures. And there, the old cathedral crawled at his feet, burned, stoned, spattered with fire, and smoking sea of mud, the workers, like a hurricane, burst into the water, their dead in their cold arms, their weeping voices drowned in the stream of the world’s grief, the deluge of the human race.

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DEGENERATE CAPITALISM AND OPPOSITION

have you seen where appeals for food for detroit's hungry have gone out in germany? the frankfurter allgemeine zeitung published a headline "hunger emergency in detroit" and after reviewing the politicians, lawyers, experts, etc. started an appeal for german to give food and clothing to detroit. the hotel owners are doing it because the americans had helped germany during the marshall plan, and local in detroit is 90 percent is the first time i ever picketed a union line with laborer? from local 334 in "detroit. the union leadership over the last 35 years. them. their own union for jobs that belong to

The day after norman mayer was shot at the washington monument i got to where a little early and found all the picketers and the black workers in the break room talking about it. what everyone was talking about was how this was a classic case of the police shooting the tires off his truck. "it's terror!" a black worker said. most of us agreed that they did it because it was on national tv and they wanted to make an example of him. the police captain who shot him saved him, but she always thought that if you ran out without your hands up, you couldn't be shot. they weren't supposed to kill you. there was a pause and then someone said "not anymore." bottle washer detroit

i went to a chicago housing authority office and tried to sign up for one of the ten-week jobs the mayor is offering just before the election. i was told i could sign up at the cha but had to go to a park mile away. there were only 22 jobs at this office and dozens of people had already signed up. i was outside waiting in the cold for hours until they called you in. one said, "i don't know why i'm staying here: i'm not going to get any work. those b--- in there don't give black people nothing when we're going. i've got the spirit of miami. i feel like burning something down!"

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mexican worker detroit

guatemala: dimensions of struggle and thought

i just came over the radio that reagan lifted the embargo on arms sales to guatemala's junta, the one led by that former dictator, ross montt. he is going to sell them helicopter parts they say. but the guatemalans have been saying for the last two years that the u.s. has been doing all this in secret — and more. they are paying for most of the war, and we in the usa have a great task before us.

i still don't understand what guatemala is about. i have read all your theoretical works — marxism and freedom, philosophy and revolution, and now the latest one, rosa luxemburg, marx's philosophy of revolution. but i must say that i think your slogan for referring to them as "the rich country in the world is unable to contain starvation" is true. i know it's true about people going hungry and cold. there are soup kitchens and "food pan­

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Activist and thinker Los Angeles

Pico Rivera, Cal.

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BLACK FREEDOM MOVEMENT ON EVERY CONTINENT

I wanted to write you a little about the Aboriginal Movement in Australia. My knowledge (not a lot) comes from an Aboriginal woman I met in Boston last year. Alice is very interesting in the conversation was finding out that it is the Aboriginal women who are mostly suffering from the tough front behind the movement: killing it alive and not sorry for themselves. They are very active in the movement, my friend had a white father who after some time lost interest in her and left her with all the children...

The greatest demand seems to be for Land rights, as shown by the demonstrations in the Commonwealth Games. There is still a lot of conflict between the tribes on particular areas of land. The protests during the Commonwealth Games were against the racist right-wing Queensland state government for not having fulfilled land promises and taking back from Aborigines what land they already have — not to mention the taking back from Aborigines what land they already own...

Each narrow cell in which we dwell is a foil dark lattice. And the fetid breath of living death Chokes up each grated screen. Now I choose to dust In humanity's machine...

There is still a lot of conflict between the tribes on particular areas of land. As you know, all opponents of apartheid are under attack today — facing jail, banning, torture and all sorts of support for that horrible government comes from Reagan and his friends. So I feel that we have to come out in that with our own internationalism, by supporting the freedom struggle in South Africa.

When Black youth in Overtown, Miami, rose up last month, many people remembered the Liberty City revolt of 1980. But also went to look up the N&L Editorial: “Government reports and the ongoing Black revolt” (Aug.-Sept. 1982) where you discussed the “Liberty City revolt” government report on the Miami rebellion in light of both the size of the demonstration and the total, ongoing Black revolt against this racist American civilization. I hope that article is still available to new readers of N&L.

Reader Florida

I have been reading various literature about communism both from the Western and Eastern countries. I have found some bias against communism by the Western countries. But I have found your magazine to be very practical indeed as it exposes the merits and demerits about the Northern Territory and Western Australia. But their struggle is increasingly active...

New reader Victoria, Australia

PAKISTAN AND THE CHAUDUR

When I heard that the dictator Zia al-haq was coming here to ask for more aid, I made me think of when I was a student back in Pakistan and how I wondered why the U.S. never did anything to stop him.

I was lucky; I graduated from high school before he was made law for women students to wear the chador. Later I read in a newspaper how a student was killed when she chador caught on a bus wheel. These accidents happen all the time. The chador is very dangerous, it is almost impossible to control and really takes both hands; and if you need one hand to carry books and the other hand to hang from the side of the bus, along comes a tree branch to catch it and you’re gone! But it doesn’t stop the men from pinching or spitting on you if you’re walking alone.

I wish more Americans could visit my country and see how we live. You can probably see how terrible the work is or that the workers have nothing. Just the newspapers — columns and columns are always blank because the censor cut them.

Letters from Prison

The U.S. Dept. of Energy has its eye on the Lake Superior region (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan) as a potential site for an international garbage dump for long-lived, high-level radioactive waste. Many of the dumps that will remain for up to the next million years.

In the words of Energy Secretary James Edwards, the objective is “to put the waste in the ground and stop talking about it.” Only with the help of an aroused citizenry can they be stopped. Much of the papers are published because of quick-fix methods of getting the nuclear waste problem out of public eye. Please help us continue the opposition:

LETTERS FROM PRISON

N&L is a fine Marxist paper. However, I often feel that it does not catch up with what one can do about circumstances. I would like to see N&L explore the rise of capitalism and its effect on the minds of people. The well-ordered world of feudalism was destroyed by the rise of capitalism. In feudalism one worked to serve another one worked for the sake of work. This type of change had to change the personality of man! I would like to see more on this.

Prisoner-subscriber Pontiac, Ill.

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Hopefully this letter will find the N&L staff well. For myself, my health is fine: happiness, I’m working on it. Thanks for the paper. I receive much enlightenment from it.

Prisoner Menard, Ill.

PUBLICATIONS FROM NEWS & LETTERS COMMITTEES

NEWS & LETTERS

Page 7

Each narrow cell in which we dwell is a foil dark lattice. And the fetid breath of living death Chokes up each grated screen. Now I choose to dust In humanity’s machine...
South Africa: the external war, the internal war

The four bomb blasts which rocked the Koeberg nuclear reactor construction site Dec. 19 did more than seriously damage South Africa's first nuclear power station. They blew a hole in the illusions of the apartheid ruling party that the relentless jailing and banning of freedom fighters within South Africa, could pacify the whole southern end of the continent without fear of outside intervention.

And as the inquiry into the breach of security at the heavily guarded Koeberg installation proceeded, what was also apparent was the fact that the political party of white South Africa can be separated from its contradictory dependencies on foreign commerce. The mass demonstrations over this very “homelands” will become centers of “subversive” activity. They know very well that unemployment in them is near total and even subsistence agriculture close to impossible.

On every front, whether rural or urban, “internal” or “external,” the future of white South Africa can be separated from its contradictory dependencies on foreign commerce. The mass demonstrations over this very “homelands” will become centers of “subversive” activity. They know very well that unemployment in them is near total and even subsistence agriculture close to impossible.

SOUTH AFRICA’S WARS AGAINST LESOTHO, MOZAMBIQUE

In claiming responsibility for the explosions, the African National Congress (ANC) cited the brutal midnight incursion by South African troops ten days earlier into Maseru, capital of the tiny state of Lesotho. Over 40 people, both exiled activists and Maseru townpeople, were slaughtered in that assault. Others were wounded, and the city remained under white South Africa’s warning to stop allowing Black exile activity.

Black opponents in Lesotho and Mozambique — and the overthrow of the Washington-backed white government in South Africa in March 1977 — have both had numerous complaints filed against them by the police. Indeed, after the very first reports showing Black mortality, prominent black leaders who have been accused of organizing the uprising have been charged and sentenced, at times in very large numbers.

Perhaps that is why the very first night of the rebellion saw a direct confrontation between Black youth and the police. And just this past summer the U.S. Civil Rights Commission described the rebellion “are identical to those documented in the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder of 1968.”

THE INDEPENDENT BLACK UNIONS

The Labor Party leaders would do well to remember the Gulf revealed between the masses and such opportunists by the rise of Black Consciousness. Not only did “Coloured” youth declare themselves Black as they joined the demonstrations in 1976, but it was “Coloureds” of the raising 1980 population. Increased to the world’s first black power mass movement, they helped trigger massive strikes propelling an un dreamed growth of independent Black unions, 1980-82.

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Martin Luther King’s philosophical dimension

January 15th was Martin Luther King’s birthday. Had he not been gunned down by a racist assassin in April of 1968, he would have been a mere 54 years of age this year. But his murder was not a simple murder. It is not cut off from the stage of history, he remains alive in the minds of many Black and white Americans and this birthday of his is witnessing a re-discovery both of him and the Black Liberation movement that he has come to symbolize.

This new interest in King is not an accident. It is directly related to the fact that the Black revolution of the 1960s did not achieve total liberation for Black Americans; that racism is still the unwritten law of the land. It is a fact that was once again brought to the consciousness of the world by the revival of Black youth in 1980. This is a youth who goes beyond the racial struggles, deludes themselves that they can maintain their rule of society. They know that apartheid would never have lasted this long without the active support of U.S. imperialism, a support that has intensified in an era where capitalism has run into a major downturn.

The years since Soweto 1976 have seen such a world-wide movement for self-determination that no law is lear holocaust. It is within this environment of permanent racism, permanent economic crisis and the threat of world-wide annihilation that King is presently seen as the great personality who fought for the interests of the poor against militarism.

The most critical aspect of the movement is that the Black masses, but not for their power as reason. What stood between them was his formal philosophical contributions, which confused thinking and theory wholly to books and not in the actuality of mass struggle. If Miami is saying anything to us at this moment, it is that we must work out a whole new theory for this practice.

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THE PHILosophical neeDS OF TODAY

When King spoke these words, he stood alone. Not one Black leader of national stature would support him. They were interested in the press release King issued in the wake of his assassination. They knew that apartheid would never have lasted this long without the active support of U.S. imperialism, a support that has intensified in an era where capitalism has run into a major downturn.

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Two States of the Union: hunger and revolt, Reagan's militarism

(Continued from Page 1)

unemployed workers who are turning to this extreme solution to their problems.

Through the nation, soup kitchens multiply in every urban area from Los Angeles to Boston, from Detroit to Memphis, from Seattle to Miami. Also throughout the nation, the number of homeless families continues to increase, with over 250,000 homeless people nationwide — a figure that is greater than those without homes during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The nation's jails fill to overflowing, as many unemployed, youth in particular, turn to crime to get food and shelter, even at the expense of a criminal record. Another equally intense indicator is the more than 12 million people who have refused to register for possible military service.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate continues to increase, with more than 12 million people without jobs, or over 10.5 per cent — and this does not include the millions who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and are too discouraged even to look for a job, or are underemployed.

The most recent massive unemployment blow came in a new year greeting from Bethlehem Steel, which announced lay-offs of 10,000 workers from its plants in Lackawanna, N.Y. and Johnstown, Pa., which will be added to the 30,000 Bethlehem workers who have lost their jobs over 25,000 business bankruptcies filed last year alone. In addition, 43 banks failed in 1982, the largest number since 1940.

According to the latest government figures, unemployment among Negroes has hit a high of 15.4 per cent, the rate for Blacks rose to 20.0 per cent, for adult males to 9.2 per cent. In relation to the latter figure, a startling number of homeless families are headed by women, a point that is constantly emphasized by reporters describing the composition of the camps of the homeless springing up around urban areas such as Houston, where the promise of employment at one time had offered some hope for jobs.

REAGAN'S STATE OF THE UNION: 'FREE ENTERPRISE' AND NUCLEAR MILITARIZATION

In total contrast to these grimly widespread realities, President Ronald Reagan's State of the Union address to be delivered on Jan. 25 is expected to paint a rosy picture of America's future, our "superminds' communication," will fail, that the "foundation blocks" have already been put in place upon which the central conceptual edifice of the future recovery will be built. If we all but "stay the course," there will be such an economic resurgence that the unemployment situation will be solved, and the rate for Blacks will fall, investment capital will be generated to re-tool U.S. industries, inflation will remain in check and the American dream will once again be within the grasp of all industrious people. Moreover, this will be achieved at the same time that military outlays will be forthcoming, not only to close all of America's "windows of vulnerability," but also to leapfrog ahead of Russia's military posture.

The literal threat of nuclear annihilation is hanging over the world. The latest escalation of the national terror­rism by Reagan is his demand for an additional $8 billion for strategic nuclear forces for the next fiscal year, which would mean a staggering total of $30 billion for nuclear warfare, or nearly tripling the $12.1 billion budgeted in 1979. And while Reagan may be forced by public pressure to cut his militarism, the AIMC has aimed at one-world mastery in competition with Russia bent on the same aim, he will insist on his nuclear budget.

Reagan, with a kind smile and gentle tone, will re­minder us in that one-world mastery in competition with Russia bent on the same aim, he will insist on his nuclear budget.

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Dear Mr. Denby,

I have just finished reading your book Indignant Heart, and I must say it made interesting reading, even though I disagree with some of your positions. I have always been one of your admirers, and this book did not disappoint me. I am 23 years old.

At present I have just embarked on a three year degree course in law. I am in my first year. I got your book through a friend who is a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, and I became involved with them through joining a group at our college. Students Against Racism. The aim of the group basically is to smash racism and unite the working-class.

I have myself never been politically involved in any groups, but after reading your experience with the Communist Party, and the way I was treated by them, I am considering joining this group. I am not sure of my beliefs, or what I want out of life. I know you can't tell me, but some guidance might help me off the fence and in the direction of life. I look forward to hearing from you Mr. Denby.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. S.A.Q.

The real crisis for American workers is that even if the US-backed militarization of the Sandinistas in the US workers would not. Just as tens of thousands of U.S. auto workers like myself will not be returning to the auto plants, so the steel mills will be returning to the U.S. plants. The workers in auto, steel and other industries are being replaced by automated, unmanned, robotized systems. The terrible unemployment which is taking place is in some industries, particularly heavy industry, will get even worse. The astronomical unemployment figures will not change dramatically even if there is some recovery from the current recession. The fact is that high unemployment is here to stay. It is not temporary. All that the labor leaders either do not understand this or are perfectly willing to accept it. It is only ourselves — workers from that have to break through the lines — who can do it.

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This is why the incident in the unemployment office where the workers were yelling revolution is not just an isolated incident. Workers certainly want a job. I was reading an article about workers, living in their cars, sleeping on church house floors, in doorways, or anywhere where they might survive for the night, trying to find jobs. The workers certainly want a job. I was thinking that the workers, living in their cars, sleeping on church house floors, in doorways, or anywhere where they might survive for the night, trying to find jobs. The workers certainly want a job. I was thinking that the workers might see this as a way to join the union, the only true way to end up strangling the movement. They never see actions of the labor leaders as a critique of themselves. You might look back again at my critique of the Maoists in the plants in my book, p. 262-272.

TODAY I'm associated with News & Letters. We have been a paper and an organization expressing the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism since 1955. This philosophy says the philosophy of the masses as a critique of themselves. You might look back again at my critique of the Maoists in the plants in my book, p. 262-272.

But if this system is unable to provide those jobs and if the labor leaders continue their deafness to what working people want, the new leftists — like myself — will become a reality. I am an unemployed worker who has been thinking about that possibility. What do you think?
Life of a Latina Teen

Los Angeles, Cal. — I come from Mexico, born without the attention of my parents. I was they would like me, but me as I was in my veins. From that I went to my conscious mind. My writing started to flow and took on its own life. It is through writing that I can speak my truth.

My brother, the oldest of the boys, is 15, attended school and was well liked by my father. He was my first love. He used to hit me for no reason at all, and I would cry all day. I was afraid of him. I was afraid of his anger.

I was a second mother for my brothers and sister as I babysat for them while my parents worked. I couldn't go to school because of my age or my time. I was expected to take care of them, but I did not have the time or the energy. I had to be responsible for them.

One woman was telling me how tired she was of having to work to support her family. She had to work from morning to night to make ends meet. She was working in a factory, but she was not able to save any money. She was living paycheck to paycheck.

The system is not fair to women. They are expected to work hard and not be paid fairly. They are not given the same opportunities as men. They are not given the same respect as men.

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**France**

It is almost two years since the Socialist Government was elected in France. While left intellectuals still issue a loud lament, left militants and workers have challenged him from the Left. A whole series of strikes have taken place in the state-owned railway and electricity plants and the state-owned Carbone Lorraine. Since 1968, a new wave of strikes has been led by the Communist-dominated and strongest French unions. However, the tendencies of the CGT and the CFDT have become more bureaucratic.

Instead of the normal bureaucratic labor delegates, immigrant workers have elected their own unofficial delegates of struggle or delegates of the line, many of them Moroccan or Algerian workers who can speak Arabic with their fellow workers. Citizens especially has maintained a racist work atmosphere. A strike last April was touched off there by a foreman saying, "I don't argue with slaves, with n---.

One analyst commented, "They wanted to maintain a system of apartheid. At the bottom of the scale, there are the Blacks and the Turks, recently recruited, and then the North Africans. The Yugoslavs, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, and the Afghans, are relegated to the East also. Finally, the French, skilled workers, produce worse resistance.

While Mitterrand's victory may have given workers the hope that change was possible, his own actions have been far from everywhere. In November he even proposed a total amnesty (including pension rights) for the fascist officers of the GAD, who had murdered Sartre and French leftist intellectuals during and after the Algerian war of independence. The parliament, however, under a storm of protest, refused to ratify the new law. A campaign was organized by left organizations such as Simone de Beauvoir and Daniel Guerin. Mitterrand support has been disheartened, as the choice of nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. The struggle against unemployment and nuclear power plants continues in the coordination bodies when when workers have joined with ecologists on a sustained basis.

**Argentina**

The Dec. 16 anti-government march in Argentina was the third such march in one week. The following week, January 3, the potential mili
tary regime, in power since 1976. Over 120,000 people joined the march "for democracy and national reconstruc
tion" against rightist oppression parties, including two groups of Peronists.

Soon the youth, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo and other radical groups began to set the tone of the march. Tame slogans were replaced by ones like "Cowards!" and "This government is the most moderate of all — hardly talking". The youth have definitely replaced the old Argentine right of the military junta and the Argentine left of the 1960s. The emergence of the Argentine left has been as much due to the repression of the military regime as it has been due to the failure of the military regime.

The main difference between the Argentine left and the Argentine right is that the Argentine left is more likely to support the struggle against unemployment and unemployment and nuclear power plants. The struggle against unemployment and nuclear power plants continues in the coordination bodies when when workers have joined with ecologists on a sustained basis.

**Isreal**

While the role of Israel in combating its Arab neighbors and establishing a system of apartheid for a large segment of its population is well known and documented, the global ambitions of Israel in Latin America, Africa and Asia have been swept under the rug. Lebanon conflict in order to extract further U.S. aid. Last year's "Peace Now" movement, laudable as their motive
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